

ADAM WANG (STATE BAR NUMBER 201233)
LAW OFFICES OF ADAM WANG
12 South First Street, Suite 613
San Jose, CA 95113
Tel: (408) 292-1040
Fax: (408) 286-6619

TOMAS E. MARGAIN, Bar No. 193555
LAW OFFICES OF TOMAS E. MARGAIN
1550 Bryant Street, Suite 725
San Francisco, CA 94103
Telephone: 415-861-9600
Fax: 415-861-9622
margainlaw@hotmail.com

Attorney for Plaintiffs
Vladimir Balarezo, Abelardo Guerrero,
Victor Funez & Osmin Avila

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR DISTRICT OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

VLADIMIR A. BALAREZO, ET AL.,
individually and on behalf of others similarly
situated

Plaintiff,

vs.

NTH CONNECT TELECOM INC., AND
STEVEN CHEN,

Defendants

Case No.:C07-05243 JF

**DECLARATION OF VLADIMIR
BALAREZO IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR APPROVAL
OF *HOFFMANN-LA ROCHE* NOTICE**

Date: April 11, 2008

Time: 9:00 AM

Judge: Jeremy Fogel

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

1. I am over 18 years old, and I am the Plaintiff in this case. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein. If called upon to testify before this Court, I would and could do so to the same effect.

2. I was employed by Defendant Nth Connect Telecom Inc. ("Nth Connect") as an Installation Technician approximately from October 2006 to August 2007.

1 3. My duties as an Installation Technician at the Nth Connect were to install cable
2 equipments for Comcast at the customers' houses as dispatched at various specified time periods
3 during the day.

4 4. I was compensated by piece for the work I performed. Specifically, I was
5 compensated a specific rate for each installation I had completed. The piece rate would vary,
6 depending on the nature of the particular job I was dispatched to perform. At the end of each pay
7 period, Nth Connect would give me an earnings statement that summarized all the work I
8 performed during the pay period, and the amount I earned for that pay period. Exhibit 1 hereto is
9 a true and accurate copy of various earnings statement issued to me for the period from April 1 to
10 April 14, 2007. As demonstrated by Exhibit 1, the amount I earned bore no relation to the hours
11 I worked during the pay period.

12 5. I was never paid according to an agreed-upon hourly rate.

13 6. My pay was never based on the number of hours I worked.

14 7. In processing the payroll, Nth Connect would arbitrarily assign me an artificial
15 hourly rate at or near the minimum wage, and reverse engineer the payroll calculation using the
16 number of hours shown on my daily time cards. As result, my payroll statement would show
17 that I was paid an hourly rate near the minimum wage for regular hours worked within 8 hours
18 per day or 40 hours per week, and time and one-half of that falsified hourly rate for hours
19 worked in excess of 8 hours per day or 40 hours per week. Such reverse-engineered hourly
20 earnings for a particular pay period would inevitably differ from the amount I actually earned
21 based on the installation work I performed during that pay period. Nth Connect would then list
22 an extra amount as "bonus", "gas reimbursements", "expenses" and "tools", etc. to make up the
23 difference so that the gross amount I received from Nth Connect per pay period as reflected on
24 the payroll statement for that period would always confirm with the amount I earned based on
25 the installation work performed, while in reality, I was not paid any amount in addition to the
earnings from installations based on piece rate. Exhibit 2 hereto is a true and correct copy of

1 pay stub for the period from April 1 to April 14, 2007 which was reverse-engineered to make it
2 appear that I was paid by an hourly rate for regular hours and one and one-half of that hourly rate
3 for overtime hours worked.

4 8. Based on my personal knowledge of Nth Connect's operations that I gained
5 during my employment with Nth Connect, I know that none of the Techs received overtime pay
6 premiums. I often spoke with other Techs during my tenure about our terms and conditions of
7 employment. From my own experience, what I learned from my managers, I learned that Nth
8 Connect observed a uniform policy applicable to all Techs of paying only piece rate earnings
9 from the installations performed despite that Techs worked substantial overtime hours every
10 week.

11 I declare under penalties of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing
12 is true and accurate.

13 Dated: March 6, 2008

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15 By: /s/ Vladimir Balarezo
16 Vladimir Balarezo
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